



Partners and Friends

Gary Somers Selected as new Superintendent He is heading west from Shenandoah National Park

In January, Douglas Eury retired as Superintendent, a position he held from 1998 - 2006. At the end of June, 2006, Pacific West Regional Director Jon Jarvis selected Gary Somers as his replacement. Jon Jarvis noted, "Gary worked around this nation in the field of archeology and cultural resources and has over 20 years of experience working with Native Americans." Jarvis added, "I am impressed with his knowledge, passion, and enthusiasm; and his reputation for strategic thinking; and his positive approach to leadership."

Rather than paraphrasing a press release, Gary has taken this opportunity to share his story with the park's friends and partners: "I started working for the National Park Service (NPS) at the Western Archeological and Conservation Center (WACC) in Tucson, Arizona, while I was a graduate student at the University of Arizona. My first position was as a Student Assistant (Archeology) and I worked in a variety of different temporary positions at WACC until 1977."

"After a four month hiatus I was able to get a permanent position in the Indian Assistance Program. That program was funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and staffed by the NPS and provided archeological and historic preservation assistance to the BIA and Tribes in Arizona and California."

"In 1982 the BIA pulled the funding for the program and the NPS "forced" me to transfer to Honolulu, Hawaii. I



Gary Somers, new Superintendent of Nez Perce National Historical Park.

became the Pacific Area Archeologist and provided archeological and general cultural resource support for the parks in Hawaii, Guam, Saipan and American Samoa."

"Since it was 3500 miles from Honolulu to Guam and 2500 miles to the west coast of the "mainland" (5000 to the east coast), travel took on a whole new meaning. This was especially true traveling to Guam and Saipan, because you crossed the International Dateline. It was interesting trying to explain to the folks in Washington, D.C. who were reviewing our travel vouchers for those trips, why we left on Sunday but did not arrive until Tuesday going out and why we had Friday twice when we came back."

"In 1993 I transferred to Anchorage, Alaska, to become the Alaska Regional Archeologist. After living in Tucson and Honolulu for over 20 years, we spent a lot of money on winter clothes when we arrived in Anchorage."

"With my positions in Honolulu and Anchorage I became a member of a fairly small fraternity of NPS employees who has done work for park units west of the International Dateline (War in the Pacific and American Memorial), south of the Equator (National Park of American Samoa) and north of the Arctic Circle (several parks in Alaska)."

"In December 1998 I moved from Anchorage to Shenandoah National Park in Luray, Virginia. I include the
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Along The Way

Celebrating the artwork of Nakia Williamson-Cloud



Nakia Williamson-Cloud touching up a painting of Coyote at the Spalding Visitor Center.

In the past, Nez Perce men recorded important events by illustrating them on buffalo hides. Nez Perce artist Nakia Williamson-Cloud continues this artistic tradition in a show of his paintings and illustrations on display from June 1 to October 30, 2006, in the Spalding Visitor Center of Nez Perce National Historical Park. The exhibit will feature paintings and illustrations commissioned by the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service.

Nakia grew up surrounded by the ancestral lands of the Nez Perce and grew up listening to the stories of the Nimiipuu. Nakia's cultural knowledge is part of his identity as an artist. "It is not too often" Nakia says, "that illustrations are done by someone who is native and has personal knowledge of material culture of the subjects they are illustrating." Nakia's attention to detail is evident as he portrays various time periods in Nez Perce history and brings to life the events he is illustrating.

Nakia attended the Institute of American Indian Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico and has won awards and praise for his work. His family lives in Lapwai, Idaho where he works for the Nez Perce Tribe's cultural resources division.

For more information, please call the park at (208) 843-7001.



Over 1,200 people attended the opening of the Summer of Peace and participated in a circle dance at the ceremonies conclusion.

Nez Perce Tribe's Summer of Peace Opens at Spalding



Nez Perce drummers at the opening ceremony of the Nez Perce Tribe's Summer of Peace signature event.

The bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition returned to Nez Perce Country in June 5-17, 2006. The second time around, the spotlight was on the Nez Perce Tribe who hosted 'The Summer of Peace', a special event to commemorate the interactions between the Corps of Discovery and the Nez Perce people.

From June 5 through 17, the National Park Service traveling exhibition, staffed by the Corps of Discovery II and a variety of other federal agencies from around the region, set up on the campus of Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston, Idaho. The rangers of Nez Perce NHP assisted the effort and gave programs to over 500 school kids.

The highlight of the two-week event, was the Nez Perce Tribe's signature event, The Summer of Peace. The opening ceremony took place at Spalding, just below the park's visitor center, on June 17. Over 1,200 people braved the rainy weather to attend the event. At the conclusion of the program, after remarks by local, state, and Tribal officials, the crowd was invited to participate in a circle dance, a fitting reminder of the bicentennial's legacy - local and tribal communities working together to commemorate an event that shaped the destiny of the Nez Perce and Pacific Northwest.

Volunteer Opportunities: Want to be a volunteer? Volunteers play a vital role in the National Park system. If you would like to work with the public or behind the scenes, give us a call. For information on opportunities at Spalding visitor center, call (208) 843-7001; for Big Hole National Battlefield, please call (406) 689-3155.

News From the Field

Employees Moving On

Douglas Eury

In January of 2006 Doug Eury retired after serving eight years as superintendent of Nez Perce National Historical Park. Doug joined the National Park Service in 1981 after two years with the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service (HCRS) and acquiring a doctorate in park and recreation administration from the University of New Mexico. His first NPS assignment was at the Southwest Regional Office in Santa Fe, followed by stints as superintendent at El Morro National Monument, El Malpais National Monument, and Petroglyph National Monument, all in New Mexico.

Marie Marek

Marie Marek is moving on to serve as the chief of interpretation for Carlsbad Caverns National Park. She served two stints at Nez Perce NHP (1987-1992 and 1996-2006) as the spalding unit manager and then the chief of inter-



Marie Marek presenting Doug Eury with a plaque, celebrating eight years of service at Nez Perce National Historical Park.

pretation.

Marie began her career with the NPS in 1974 as a Student Conservation Association intern. In 1976 she was hired as a seasonal naturalist at Zion National Park and spent several seasons there. Over the years Marie worked in interpretation and visitor services at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore (Indiana), Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area (Ohio), the Harry S. Truman Home (Missouri),


and as an Interpretive Planner in the Intermountain Regional Office in Denver.

Timothy Fisher

Tim Fisher, lead park ranger at Big Hole National Battlefield, was selected as the visitor center director, with the Ketchikan Misty Fiords Ranger District Discovery Center, Tongass National Forest, Ketchikan, Alaska. Tim will start his new job on October 1, 2006. Tim has led the Interpretation and Resource Management program at the Big Hole Battlefield since 1998.

Tim began his NPS career in 1983 as an Student Conservation Association intern at Natural Bridges National Monument. He worked as a seasonal Park Ranger from 1986-1988 and got his first permanent job at Lowell NHP in 1988. Before coming to Big Hole Tim was the first education outreach ranger at Big Cypress National Preserve. At Big Hole, Tim established the natural resource management program.

National Park Service
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Nez Perce National Historical Park offers for all Americans an important perspective about our history as a people. It is not the view from the Mississippi River looking west; it is a view from a homeland looking out, witnessing the march of history and change, yet continuing today and tomorrow to commemorate and celebrate Nez Perce culture and traditions. It is a park about a people for all people.

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Canoe Camp Renovation Complete



Canoe Camp now has a larger parking area, restrooms, and new trails.

The park's Canoe Camp site has reopened to visitors with expanded parking, pedestrian trails, new restrooms, and interpretive panels.

Finishing touches will be completed this fall, as several Ponderosa pine trees are planted to provide screening. A bulletin board, flagstaff, and two interpretive panels connecting the his-

toric site with the adjoining Northwest Passage Scenic Byway will also be installed.

The \$433,000 construction project culminated three years of site preparation, land acquisition, two environmental assessments, property subdivision, residential relocation, demolition, and archeological mitigation. This work was done through the cooperation and assistance of an array of NPS staff; state and local officials; and the Nez Perce Tribe.

"By improving public safety and enjoyment, Canoe Camp will be a lasting legacy of the Lewis and Clark expedition bicentennial," said Idaho unit manager Scott Eckberg. "The project also demonstrates the good that can be done when people pool their talents and knowledge to achieve a mutual goal."

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Gary climbing Old Rag Mountain, in Shenandoah, National Park.

month because moving out of Alaska in the winter is an experience in itself. Where else to you have to drive through another country, Canada, to get from one duty station to another? The first night we stayed in Beaver Creek, Yukon Territory and the temperature was 31 below zero.”

“The trip from Anchorage to Luray was a total of 5700 miles, including the 1,000 or so miles on the ferry from Haines, Alaska to Bellingham, Washington.”

“At Shenandoah National Park, as Chief of the Division of Natural and Cultural Resources, I was not only responsible for the natural and cultural resource programs but also the backcountry, wilderness and trails programs. Although I have enjoyed the time I have spent at Shenandoah, it will be nice to get to a park that is not quite as close to Washington, D.C.”

“I am excited to be coming to Nez Perce National Historical Park as its next Superintendent. It is hard to imagine, since I will be moving from Virginia to Idaho, but this will be shortest move I have made in my NPS career. My wife, Rhonda, will be moving with me. She is a teacher of the blind and visually impaired. Our son, Corey, lives in San Diego where he is working as a computer scientist.”



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